

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article, which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet, wherein said uneven sheet has an uneven profile formed on a surface thereof to be brought into contact with a wearer's skin, the uneven profile being flexibly deformable in conformity to the contour of the wearer's body and to the wearer's movement, and depressions of the uneven profile being capable of trapping high-viscosity excreta thereby separating the high-viscosity excreta from the wearer's skin while an absorbent article having the topsheet is worn.

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2. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article ~~according to claim 1,~~ which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet, wherein said uneven sheet has an uneven profile formed on a surface thereof to be brought into contact with a wearer's skin, the uneven profile being flexibly deformable in conformity to the contour of the wearer's body and to the wearer's movement, and depressions of the uneven profile being capable of trapping high-viscosity excreta thereby separating the high-viscosity excreta from the wearer's skin while an absorbent article having the topsheet is worn, and wherein said uneven profile has a height of

0.5 to 15 mm measured from the base to the top thereof, and said topsheet shows (1) a maximum thickness change of 0.3 to 5 mm for a load increase by  $\Delta 2.5 \text{ gf/cm}^2$  when compressed in the thickness direction under a load increasing up to  $20 \text{ gf/cm}^2$  and (2) a compressive deformation percentage ( $C\Delta L_{20}$ ) of 50 to 90% based on the initial thickness when compressed under a load of  $20 \text{ gf/cm}^2$  load, said compressive deformation percentage  $C\Delta L_{20}$  being calculated from the equation:  $C\Delta L_{20} = (L_0 - L_{20})/L_0 \times 100$ , wherein  $L_0$  is the initial thickness, and  $L_{20}$  is the thickness under a load of  $20 \text{ gf/cm}^2$ .

3. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article ~~according to claim 1~~, which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet, wherein said uneven sheet has an uneven profile formed on a surface thereof to be brought into contact with a wearer's skin, the uneven profile being flexibly deformable in conformity to the contour of the wearer's body and to the wearer's movement, and depressions of the uneven profile being capable of trapping high-viscosity excreta thereby separating the high-viscosity excreta from the wearer's skin while an absorbent article having the topsheet is worn, and which shows (1) a compressive deformation percentage ( $C\Delta L_{2.5}$ ) of 0.1 to 5% based on the initial thickness when compressed under a load of  $2.5 \text{ gf/cm}^2$ , said compressive deformation

percentage  $CAL_{2.5}$  being calculated from the equation:  $CAL_{2.5} = (L_0 - L_{2.5})L_0 \times 100$ , wherein  $L_0$  is the initial thickness, and  $L_{2.5}$  is the thickness under a load of 2.5 gf/cm<sup>2</sup>, and (2) compressive deformation percentage ( $CAL_5$ ) of 5 to 20% based on the initial thickness when compressed under a load of 5 gf/cm<sup>2</sup>, said compressive deformation percentage  $CAL_5$  being calculated from the equation:  $CAL_5 = (L_0 - L_5)L_0 \times 100$ , wherein  $L_0$  is as defined above, and  $L_5$  is the thickness under a load of 5 gf/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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4. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article ~~according to claim 1~~, which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet, wherein said uneven sheet has an uneven profile formed on a surface thereof to be brought into contact with a wearer's skin, the uneven profile being flexibly deformable in conformity to the contour of the wearer's body and to the wearer's movement, and depressions of the uneven profile being capable of trapping high-viscosity excreta thereby separating the high-viscosity excreta from the wearer's skin while an absorbent article having the topsheet is worn, and which shows a compressive recovery ( $DAL_{R2.5}/L_{2.5}$ ) of 70% or more as obtained from thicknesses  $L_{2.5}$  and  $L_{R2.5}$  according to the equation:  $DAL_{R2.5}/L_{2.5} = L_{R2.5}/L_{2.5} \times 100$ , wherein  $L_{2.5}$  is the thickness of the topsheet having been compressed under a

load increasing up to  $2.5 \text{ gf/cm}^2$ , and  $L_{R2.5}$  is the thickness of the topsheet having been further compressed by increasing the load to  $20 \text{ gf/cm}^2$  and then relieved from compression until the load is reduced to  $2.5 \text{ gf/cm}^2$ .

5. (Original) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 2, wherein said maximum thickness change for a load increase by  $\Delta 2.5 \text{ gf/m}^2$  occurs while the load is increased from  $2.5 \text{ gf/cm}^2$ .

A 6. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article ~~according to claim 1~~, which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet, wherein said uneven sheet has an uneven profile formed on a surface thereof to be brought into contact with a wearer's skin, the uneven profile being flexibly deformable in conformity to the contour of the wearer's body and to the wearer's movement, and depressions of the uneven profile being capable of trapping high-viscosity excreta thereby separating the high-viscosity excreta from the wearer's skin while an absorbent article having the topsheet is worn, and wherein said uneven profile is formed by gathering an unevenness-forming sheet into a great number of

parallel folds and joining the thus folded sheet to a base sheet at the bases of said folds, such that the joints formed between said folded sheet and said base sheet each have a width W1 of 0.1 to 10 mm and are equally spaced at an interval W2 of 1 to 30 mm, and the minimum distance W3 between adjacent folds is 0 to 5 mm.

7. (Original) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 6, wherein said folds of said unevenness-forming sheet each have an  $\Omega$ -shaped cross-sectional contour in their width direction.

8. (Original) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 6, wherein said unevenness-forming sheet has a bulk softness of 5 to 40 cN.

9. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 1, ~~which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet,~~ wherein said uneven sheet and said base sheet are superposed on each other and joined together in parts in a prescribed pattern, and said uneven sheet forms a large number of

protrusions arrayed in both a longitudinal direction and a width direction of said topsheet and separates from said base sheet at least at the sites where said protrusions tops are formed.

10. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 1, ~~which is composed of an uneven sheet and a base sheet,~~ wherein said uneven sheet and said base sheet are superposed on each other and joined together in parts in a prescribed pattern, said uneven sheet contains a large number of protrusions and separates from said base sheet over the entire area thereof except at joints where it is joined with said base sheet, and a vertical cross-section of said uneven sheet taken along a line that does not contain any of said joints has an almost wavy profile.

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11. (Original) A topsheet for an absorbent article according to claim 10, wherein said uneven sheet comprises two sets of protrusions, wherein the first set of protrusions contain larger protrusions than said second set of protrusions, such that the protrusions of said second set of protrusions are smaller and lower in height than the protrusions of said first set of protrusions,

A ( and wherein the protrusions of said second set of protrusions are located on borders between adjacent protrusions of said first set of protrusions.

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